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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,198	03/23/2004	York Alexander Beste	54391	2001

26474 7590 10/13/2006

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EXAMINER

THERKORN, ERNEST G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1723

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/806,198

Applicant(s)

BESTE ET AL.

Examiner

Ernest G. Therkorn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. No support can be found for "firstly providing the contaminated ionic liquid non-polar organic solvent, subsequently". As such, the claims are considered to be drawn to new matter.

Claims 14, 16, and 19 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 14, 16, and 19 do not add additional limitations.

Claims 14, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, fourth paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 14, 16, and 19 do not add additional limitations.

Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The metes and bounds of "high-boiling compounds" can not be determined. As such, the claim is considered to be indefinite.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 8-11, and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(B) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009). The claims are considered to read on Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009). However, if a difference exists between the claims and Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009), it would reside in optimizing the elements of Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009). It would have been obvious to optimize the elements of Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) to enhance separation.

Claims 1-3, 8-11, and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291). At best, the claims differ from Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) in the clarity that nitrotoluene is a polar high boiling compound. Hackh's Chemical Dictionary,

McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 discloses that nitrotoluene boils at 218 degrees Celsius. This is considered to be high boiling. Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) on column 12, lines 8-10 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar. Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) on column 2, lines 36-41 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar. It would have been obvious that Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009)'s nitrotoluene is a polar high boiling compound because Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 discloses that nitrotoluene boils at 218 degrees Celsius and either because Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) on column 12, lines 8-10 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar or because Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) on column 2, lines 36-41 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar.

Claims 2, 7, 9, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) as applied to claims 1-3, 8-11, and 13-20 above, and further in view of Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411. At best, the claims differ from Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) in reciting use of ion exchange chromatography. Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 discloses on pages 410-411 that ion exchange

was the first of the various liquid chromatography methods to be used widely under modern liquid chromatography conditions. It would have been obvious to use ion exchange chromatography in Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) as his particular type of chromatography because Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 discloses on pages 410-411 that ion exchange was the first of the various liquid chromatography methods to be used widely under modern liquid chromatography conditions.

Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461, either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291), and Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 as applied to claims 2, 7, 9, and 18-20 above, and further in view of Mikes' Laboratory Handbook of Chromatographic and Allied Methods, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 218-219. At best, the claims differ from Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461, either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291), and Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272,

285, and 410-411 in the clarity of reciting a resin. Mikes' Laboratory Handbook of Chromatographic and Allied Methods, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 218-219 discloses that synthetic resins are of the greatest importance for ion exchange chromatography. It would have been obvious that Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461, either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291), and Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 uses a resin because Mikes' Laboratory Handbook of Chromatographic and Allied Methods, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 218-219 discloses that synthetic resins are of the greatest importance for ion exchange chromatography.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) as applied to claims 1-3, 8-11, and 13-20 above, and further in view of Gerhold (U.S. Patent No. 4,402,832). At best, the claim differs from Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) in reciting use of a continuous chromatography process. Gerhold (U.S. Patent No. 4,402,832) (column 1, lines 29-39) discloses that use of a simulated moving bed is a very successful process for separating components from a feed mixture. It

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would have been obvious to use a continuous chromatography process in Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) because Gerhold (U.S. Patent No. 4,402,832) (column 1, lines 29-39) discloses that use of a simulated moving bed is a very successful process for separating components from a feed mixture.

Claims 6, 7, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) as applied to claims 1-3, 8-11, and 13-20 above, and further in view of Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411. At best, the claims differ from Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) in reciting use of water as a solvent and reversed phase silica gel. Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 on pages 270-272 and 285 discloses that reversed phase silica gel packings are the closest to a universal system for modern liquid chromatography and that water is usually used as a base solvent. It would have been obvious to use water as a solvent and reversed phase silica gel in Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's

Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) because Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 on pages 270-272 and 285 discloses that reversed phase silica gel packings are the closest to a universal system for modern liquid chromatography and that water is usually used as a base solvent.

Claims 11 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) as applied to claims 1-3, 8-11, and 13-20 above, and further in view of Wasserscheid (Ionic Liquids in Synthesis). At best, the claims differ from Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) in reciting evaporating low boiling compounds. Wasserscheid (Ionic Liquids in Synthesis) discloses on page 17, lines 13-15 discloses that any volatile compound may be removed from an ionic liquid by distillation. It would have been obvious to evaporate low boiling compounds in Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) because Wasserscheid (Ionic Liquids

in Synthesis) discloses on page 17, lines 13-15 discloses that any volatile compound may be removed from an ionic liquid by distillation.

Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291), and Wasserscheid (Ionic Liquids in Synthesis) as applied to claims 11 and 18-20 above, and further in view of Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 and Mikes' Laboratory Handbook of Chromatographic and Allied Methods, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 218-219. At best, the claims differ from Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291), and Wasserscheid (Ionic Liquids in Synthesis) in reciting use of a resin. Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 discloses on pages 410-411 that ion exchange was the first of the various liquid chromatography methods to be used widely under modern liquid chromatography conditions. Mikes' Laboratory Handbook of Chromatographic and Allied Methods, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 218-219 discloses that synthetic resins are of the greatest importance for ion exchange chromatography. It would have been obvious that Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) alone or further in view of Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill

Book, New York, 1972, page 461 and either Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) or Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291), and Wasserscheid (Ionic Liquids in Synthesis) uses a resin because Snyder, Introduction to Modern Liquid Chromatography, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 270-272, 285, and 410-411 discloses on pages 410-411 that ion exchange was the first of the various liquid chromatography methods to be used widely under modern liquid chromatography conditions and Mikes' Laboratory Handbook of Chromatographic and Allied Methods, John Wiley & Sons New York, 1979, pages 218-219 discloses that synthetic resins are of the greatest importance for ion exchange chromatography.

The remarks urge that page 11 of the specification make the terms "low boiling point" and "high boiling point" are definite. However, page 11 of the specification does not indicate what temperature range would be considered to be "low boiling point liquids" and what temperature range would be considered to be "high boiling point liquids." As such, page 11 of the specification does not contribute to making the terms "low boiling point" and "high boiling point" definite.

The remarks urge that separation of a polar, high boiling compound is not shown. However, Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) discloses the separation of nitrotoluene in paragraph 24, line 9; paragraph 26, line 9; and paragraph 28, line 9 from ionic liquid (paragraphs 42-43). Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 discloses that nitrotoluene boils at 218 degrees Celsius. This is considered to be high boiling. Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) on column 12, lines 8-10 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar. Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) on column

2, lines 36-41 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar. It would have been obvious that Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009)'s nitrotoluene is a polar high boiling compound because Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, McGraw-Hill Book, New York, 1972, page 461 discloses that nitrotoluene boils at 218 degrees Celsius and either because Kawaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,474) on column 12, lines 8-10 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar or because Thiem (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,291) on column 2, lines 36-41 discloses that nitrotoluene is polar.

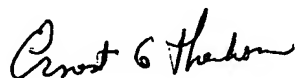
The remarks urge that Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) is directed to separation by distillation and not adsorption. However, Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) on paragraph 8 discloses that distillation and chromatography are interchangeable separation means. As such, Earle (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0015009) is considered to disclose adsorption.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to E. Therkorn at telephone number (571) 272-1149. The official fax number is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ernest G. Therkorn
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

EGT
October 10, 2006